or other, it should conform to specific well-set norms; they cannot go beyond those norms.

SHRI T. R. BALU: Is there any possibility of connecting Tuticorin and Kayattar so that Tuticorin will be airlinked with the rest of India?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: This is a question relating to airports.

Chartered Air-Flight for Haj

*143. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the programme of chartered air flights for Haj, 1988 has been finalised; if so, by when the first outward flights from Bombay and Delhi are likely to start;

(b) whether there are other centres in the country from where Haj chartered flights operate; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Saudi Airlines has declined to participate in the programme, and if so, whether Government have drawn up any contingency plan to avoid confusion and chaos at the last moment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) The matter has not been finalised as yet.

SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: The answer given by the honourable Minister is as strange as it is disappointing. Members of Parliament and members of the Central Haj Committee have been repeatedly sending flight plans to the Ministry of Civil Aviation to finalise the programme and still Government comes to the floor of the House and says that the matter has not been finalised. I know what the reasons are for not finalising the programme even at this late stage. That is one. Secondly, two days ago the honourable Minister of State for External Affairs, while addressing the Central Haj Advisory Board, made a shocking statement that this year the Haj will be a costlier affair and that the airfares will also be raised. What he said was that Air India was running in loss and it has not increased the Haj fares in the last four years. This is not true. I am also a member of the Central Haj Committee. Government had unilaterally raised the fare in 1984 by Rs. 500, in 1985 by Rs. 527 and in 1986 by Rs. 710. Why should you raise the fare? The impression given to the people of this country is that the fare was not raised in the last four years. Now I want the Minister to give an assurance that this year the fare will not be raised.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: I can only say that looking at the fuel price going up and other facilities being provided for the air flights, it is important that we raise the fare. Now, even after raising the fares, the fares are such that you do not make any profits. I would like to inform you that even last year we ran in loss on the basis of the Haj fare of last year. I do not have the exact figures out Air India underwent a loss of roughly a few lakhs of rupees. But even then I would like to inform you that whenever Haj flights have been arranged, actually many flights from regular routes have been taken away and Government of India, through these Air India and Indian Airlines flights having been taken away from regular schedules, have gone in for major losses which they could have easily avoided by not giving the flights to the Haj people.

SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Is this an answer as if Government is obliging us? We are paying more than Rs. 7000 and 20,000 Hajis per year are lifted from Bombay, Calcutta and Madras and are sent to Jeddah. Each one of them pays Rs. 7000 and that too two months in advance. Can you just give me another example of a client who buys 20,000 tickets at a time and pays the money two months in advance? You give me another

example. Madam this is very shocking. My second supplementary, therefore, is whether it is a fact that our Consul-General in Jeddah has sent you a telex four days ago that Saudi Airlines is willing to participate in the programme for outward flights and that it is also examining the possibility of lifting the entire lot and, if so, why, if you had known it four days ago, you say that the matter is now being finalised. Further, Madam, the West Bengal Government has sent them a letter stating that a private tour organizer is prepared to take all the Hajis from orissa, West Bengal and the other adjoining States for only Rs. 5,400/- whereas you are charging Rs. 7,700/-. If that is so, what are you going to do about it?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Madam, we are already running with short capacity in the aircraft and Air-India went in for an inquiry internationally asking for people to come and help them in picking up Hajis, but nobody came forward to do that. I do not know about what you said; but if you give me the details about the particular thing, about the organizer in Orissa or West Bengal, I can send it to Air-India and get it examined by the Air-India people.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Irshadbaig.

श्री मीर्जा इर्शादबेग : मान्यवर, जैसा कि मंत्री महोदय ने अभी जवाब दिया मैंने इससे पूर्व भी प्रश्न पूछा था कि हज कमेटी ने इस संबंध में आपको कोई आवेदन पत्र दिया है या नहीं दिया है, मुझे इसका जवाब यह मिला है कि हज कमेटी ने उनको कोई आवेदन पत्र नहीं दिया है, लेकिन उन्होंने निरन्तर इस चीज को कहा है। महोदया पिछले चार वर्षों में हज जाने वाले जो हाजी हैं, जो यात्री हैं उनके किराया की दरों में बढ़ोत्तरी होती जा रही है। इसलिये मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूंगा और वे सदन को आवश्स्त करें कि इस वर्ष कम से कम इसमें कोई ज्यादा बढ़ोत्तरी नहीं होगी, ज्यादा चार्जेज नहीं लिये जायेंगे। महोदया, जैसा कि अभी वली उल्लाह ने कहा कि 20 हजार टिकट हज कमेटी पहले एडवांस में लेती है और मान्यवर 12.50 प्रतिशत डिसकाउन्ट और लोगों को दिया जाता है। इसलिये मान्यवर, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री महोदय से निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि वे सदन को आश्वस्त करें और महोदया अब समय कहां रह गया है। रमजान 15–20 दिनों में खत्म होने जा रहे हैं और उसके बाद तुरन्त यह शुरू हो जायेगा और मंत्री महोदय अपने जवाब में कहते हैं कि उनको इन्फार्मेशन नहीं है और इस पर अभी तक कोई निर्णय नहीं लिया गया है। इसलिये महोदया, मैं मंत्री महोदय से मांग करता हूं कि वे तत्काल इस बारे में निर्णय लें।

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: I have just now informed the House that we are in touch with the Saudi Arbian people and even if they do not give us enough facilities or the required capacity in their aircraft, we have made an emergency arrangement that we will pick up all the 19,900 odd people or 20,000 people. We have made that arrangement and I would like to take this opportunity to inform the honourable Member that Air-India does give a lot of facilities for the Hajis and, if you like, I can read them out. There are many facilities which probably run into lakhs of rupees which Air-India gives to the Hajis.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Khaleelur Rahman.

श्री मोहम्मद खलीलुर रहमान : मैडम, जहां तक शहरे हैदराबाद का सवाल है यह जनूब का सेन्टर है। इसके पेशेनजर रखते हुए दो साल पहले से एयर इंडिया और इंटरनेशनल फ्लाइट हफ्ते में एक दफे हैदराबाद से जिद्दा जाती है। मैडम यह हैदराबाद वालों और आंध्र प्रदेश की मुसलसल डिमांड कई सालों से है कि हैदराबाद को भी हाजियों के लिये

एक सेन्टर बनाया जाय। इसलिये मैं मिनिस्टर साहब से पूछना चाहता हूं कि क्या वे हैदराबाद को भी अपनी लिस्ट में शामिल करने जा रहे हैं?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Mrs. Manorama Pandey.

श्रीमती मनोरमा पाण्डेय : महोदया, मेरा सप्लीमेंटरी पूछ लिया गया है।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Salve.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Madam, Air-India is not a charitable institution and, therefore, it should not be put to a loss. But, Madam, Air-India is certainly not obliging the Haj Committee by carrying people for Haj purposes. In Bombay, responsible Haj people complained to me about the way Air-India was behaving with them. When they are dealing with such a large number of clients, 20,000 people or 27,000 people being carried, may I request the Minister to direct the Air-India people, officials at the top level—he has referred to some facilities being given—to talk to the Haj people and sort it out there itself, rather than bringing such matters to Parliament? Can't we run the public sector, the real business institutions, on their own? It is a mistake, entirely the fault, of the people at the helm of the affairs in the Air India, who are not able to solve their problems.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: I will convey your sentiments to Air India.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO: Madam, through the Minister's kindness last year we had direct flights from Srinagar to Jeddah. Some days, of course, they had to change at Delhi. Will he assure us that this arrangement will continue? Part (b), hon. Members Shri Raoof Valiullah and Shri Irshadbaig Mirza have stated that the general sales agents who buy one ticket or two tickets are given 12 per cent and others are given only 5 per cent. There is a difference of 7½ per cent. Will the Government consider that at least to the extent of this 7½ per cent concession will be made in the fare from here to Jeddah?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Along with what Mr. Salve has suggested, I will direct these people to discuss it. Of course, flights from Srinagar will continue.

Non-availability of wagons in South Eastern Railway

*144. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that non-availability of wagons from South Eastern Railway posed a serious problem to the Paradeep Port Authority for handling of coal traffic during 1987-88;

(b) if so, what action has been taken to improve the supply of wagons; and

(c) what is the total number of wagons allocated to the Paradeep Port Authority for his purpose?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) 52440 wagons in terms of four-wheeled wagons in 1987-88.

SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Madam, my question was very specific. I had asked whether it is a fact that non-availability of wagons from South Eastern Railway posed a serious problem to the Paradeep Port Authority for handling of coal traffic during 1987-88. The answer given is in the negative. In this connection I would like to draw your attention to the fact that Paradeep Port could handle 1.5 million tonnes of coking coal per year. Transport of this volume of coal would involve carriage through 750 rakes. Therefore, about 65 rakes have to be made available per month at Paradeep. A lot of difficulties are being faced to get the required number of rakes. As against the monthly requirement of 65 rakes the autho-